

PATENT
260/085**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 20 have been amended. Claims 16 and 22 have been cancelled.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) based on U.S. Patent No. 6,269,467 issued to Chang et al. ("Chang").

Chang discloses: "The DFT architecture completes the specification by integrating these virtual sockets into the rest of the chip-level test requirements. Each virtual socket has a socket access port (SAP) mapped to the chip access port (CAP) to effect such a transformation of the test data." (Col. 43 lines 11-16). Chang further discloses: "12. Specify detail on the DAP the sockets, the UDI, and the test interconnect for the design body architecture only. 13. The design body architecture should preferably be described hierarchically. 14. There should preferably be multiple SAPs at the next level of hierarchy, the socket level. 15. Each SAP should preferably be a recursive image of the DAP with one or many applicable configurations available to the DAP. All configurations of the SAP should preferably be support by the DAR." (Col. 45 lines 45-55). However, Chang does not disclose "wherein each of said lower-level test control circuit blocks is connected to a different virtual circuit block for controlling testing thereof," as recited in claim 1 as amended. This element of claim 1 was previously in claim 16, which the Examiner has indicated as allowable. Therefore, applicants submit that claim 1 as amended is patentable over Chang. Given that claims 15 and 17-19 depend from claim 1, applicants submit that these claims are also patentable.

Claim 20 as amended recites "wherein each of said lower-level test control circuit blocks is connected to a different virtual circuit block for controlling testing thereof," which was previously in claim 22 and which was indicated as allowable. Therefore, applicants submit that claim 20 as amended is patentable over Chang. Given that claims 21 and 23 depend from claim 20, applicants submit that these claims are also patentable.

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260/085**CONCLUSION**

Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested. The Examiner may call the Assignee's attorney at (650) 849-4422 to further advance prosecution of this case to issuance.

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Respectfully submitted,
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